THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):
(a) All the trains which had been planned to be diverted *via* Konkan Railway have been so diverted. In addition, 3 trains which had not been originally planned have been introduced, of which 2 are express trains and one is a passenger train.

The average speed of Superfast Express trains over Konkan Railway is between 58 kmph and 75 kmph; for other mail/express trains between 49 and 59 kmph and for passenger trains it ranges between 39 and 59 kmph. These average commercial speeds are higher compared to the speeds for the same trains over adjoining Railways (except in respect of Rajdhani Express over Western Railway portion) and compare favourably with the rest of Indian Railway's.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) It is not a fact that Rajdhani Express is always late by a couple of hours. In the month of December, out of 8 UP Rajdhani trains run (from Trivandrum Central towards Nizamuddin) only on one occasion the train was by over more than 2 hours late. In the down direction from (Nizamuddin towards Trivandrum Central) out of 9 trains run, only on 2 occasions, the train was delayed for more than 2 hours or more.

(d) The traffic on this line has not reached a level to justify doubling.

Improvement of train connections in Andhra Pradesh

278. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plans to improve the train connections in Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantpur and Chitoor districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that though the districts are close to each other, there are no proper train connections between them;

(c) whether any study has been done to improve train connectivity

between the four districts of Rayalaseema;

(d) if so, what are the details of the study;

(e) whether the South Central Railway would carry out a traffic study of the area with regard to potentials of rail traffic; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) and (b) Introduction of train services is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and commercial viability. The existing services are considered adequate for the present level of traffic in the districts and there is no proposal at present to introduce additional trains in the region.

(c) to (e) In view of the availability of services connecting the districts, no separate study is considered necessary.

(f) Does not arise.

Derailment of trains

279. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of derailment of trains on various sections of the Railways have been on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of train derailment incidents since the beginning of the year 2000;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the Railways as a consequence thereof;

(d) what is the outcome of inquiry conducted into the train derailment incidents; and

(e) what measure have been taken by Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in number of derailments.